

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-110. (Canceled)

111. (New) A method of inhibiting a target transcript associated with influenza virus in a mammal, the method comprising:

introducing into the vascular system of a mammalian subject a composition comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of an siRNA, an shRNA, and a microRNA, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 15 nucleotides in length and has a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent consisting essentially of a peptide selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide,

the delivery agent being selected and the introducing being performed so that the nucleic acid is delivered to the respiratory system of the subject, notwithstanding the composition having been introduced into the vascular system, and the NP transcript is inhibited in the respiratory system.

112. (New) A method of treating influenza or a clinical condition associated with overexpression or inappropriate expression of an influenza virus nucleoprotein (NP) transcript or excessive functional activity of a polypeptide encoded by the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript comprising the step of delivering a composition comprising

introducing into the vascular system of a mammalian subject a composition comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of an siRNA, an shRNA, and a microRNA, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 15 nucleotides in length

and has a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

(ii) a delivery agent consisting essentially of a peptide selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide,

the delivery agent being selected and the introducing being performed so that the nucleic acid is delivered to the respiratory system of the subject, notwithstanding the composition having been introduced into the vascular system, and the NP transcript is inhibited in the respiratory system.

113. (New) A method of inhibiting expression of a target transcript of a respiratory virus in a mammalian subject comprising the step of administering to the subject a composition comprising:

introducing into the vascular system of a mammalian subject a composition comprising:

i) a nucleic acid selected from the group consisting of an siRNA, an shRNA, and a microRNA, wherein the nucleic acid is at least 15 nucleotides in length and has a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence that is complementary to the nucleoprotein (NP) transcript; and

ii) a delivery agent consisting essentially of a peptide selected from the group consisting of an arginine-rich peptide, a histidine-rich peptide, and a lysine-rich peptide,

the delivery agent being selected and the introducing being performed so that the nucleic acid is delivered to the respiratory system of the subject, notwithstanding the composition having been introduced into the vascular system, and the NP transcript is inhibited in the respiratory system.